

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2786

Introduced by Assembly Member Chávez

February 19, 2016

An act to add Section 66011.3 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2786, as introduced, Chávez. Public postsecondary education: Donahoe Higher Education Act: 4-year baccalaureate degree.

Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, sets forth, among other things, the missions and functions of California's public and independent segments of higher education, and the campuses operated by those segments. The public segments of higher education include the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, and the University of California, under the administration of the Regents of the University of California.

This bill would require the Trustees of the California State University, and request the Regents of the University of California, to offer eligible students of their respective segments an agreement guaranteeing that a student who meets certain conditions may complete a baccalaureate degree within 4 academic years, with the exception of certain programs that may require up to 5 academic years to complete. The bill would specify that a student who scores in an unspecified percentile, or above, on a standardized college readiness assessment would be presumed to be eligible to enter into an agreement under the bill. The bill would require the agreement to outline a general pathway for the coursework that the student must complete in order to continue to be qualified for

the guarantee and receive his or her baccalaureate degree within the agreed-upon time.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.

State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 66011.3 is added to the Education Code,
2 to read:

3 66011.3. (a) The Trustees of the California State University
4 shall, and the Regents of the University of California are requested
5 to, offer eligible students of their respective segments an agreement
6 guaranteeing that a student who meets certain conditions may
7 complete a baccalaureate degree within four academic years. A
8 campus may provide for a longer period for programs such as
9 engineering or teacher training that may require more than four
10 academic years to complete, but under no circumstances may the
11 time to a baccalaureate degree agreed to under this section be
12 extended beyond five academic years.

13 (b) An agreement entered into under this section shall comply
14 with all of the following:

15 (1) A student who scores in the ____ percentile or above on any
16 standardized college readiness assessment test, such as the
17 Scholastic Aptitude Test, ACT, or any other widely administered
18 college readiness examination, shall be presumed to be eligible to
19 enter into the agreement. A student who scores below the top ____
20 percentile, but above the ____ percentile may take another test
21 chosen by the campus, and the campus shall establish a cut-off
22 score for eligibility for the program pursuant to that test.

23 (2) The agreement shall be executed by a student and an
24 authorized representative of the campus before the end of the
25 student's first semester or quarter of enrollment at the campus.

26 (3) The agreement shall outline a general pathway for the
27 coursework that the student must complete in order to continue to
28 be qualified for the guarantee and receive his or her baccalaureate
29 degree within the agreed-upon time.

30 (4) The student shall not be required to declare a major field
31 until the spring semester or quarter of the student's sophomore
32 year.

1 (5) The student shall be required to be a full-time student, and
2 maintain academic standards equivalent to those required pursuant
3 to Article 1 (commencing with Section 69430) of Chapter 1.7 of
4 Part 42 for receipt of Cal Grant awards.

5 (6) A student may also be required to attend orientation sessions
6 and student success workshops in order to remain eligible for the
7 guarantee.

8 (7) A student who executes an agreement under this section
9 shall be granted priority for enrollment for each course that is part
10 of the general pathway outlined as part of the agreement pursuant
11 to paragraph (3).

12 (8) A student who meets all of the requirements of the agreement
13 and, through no fault of his or her own, is unable to complete his
14 or her baccalaureate degree within the guaranteed period shall pay
15 no tuition to take the additional coursework required to complete
16 that degree.

17 (c) As used in this section, “campus” means a campus of the
18 California State University or the University of California, as
19 applicable.